

AUGUST 2002

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF FINLAND FOR PET DOGS AND CATS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

General Information:

Dogs and cats may be imported from the United States provided that the animal shows no symptoms of infectious diseases on the day of departure. The animal has to be accompanied by a certificate of vaccination or other document with an indication by a veterinary surgeon that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies by a vaccine given in the annex within no less than 30 days and no more than 12 months from the day of import. The vaccination need not be repeated during the waiting period of 30 days. Animals cannot be vaccinated for rabies prior to the age of four weeks. **Proof of medication against tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* is required, beginning August 1, 2001, except for animals less than 12 weeks of age.**

The certificates and documents must show the following information:

1. the name and status of the veterinary surgeon who gave the certificate or made the indication, with appropriate clarification;
2. place and date of the certificate or indication;
3. name and lot number of the rabies vaccine used when the vaccination against rabies is a precondition for allowing the import;
4. name of medication against tapeworms given, dose, and method of medication.
The animal must be accompanied by a certificate issued by a veterinarian showing that the animal has been given not more than 30 days before arrival in Finland, an appropriate dosage of medicine containing praziquantel against tapeworm causing echinococcosis approved the species concerned.

The certificates and other documents must be presented to the customs authorities in connection with the import of the animals.

When dogs and cats aged no more than 12 weeks are imported, vaccination against rabies is not required, but the animal must be accompanied by either:

1. a document showing that the mother of the animal was vaccinated against rabies by a vaccine given in the annex; or
2. a certificate by a veterinary surgeon on a clinical inspection in which no symptom of infectious diseases were found in the animal. **This certificate remains in force for 10 days from the day it was given.**

If an imported dog or cat is not accompanied by one of the certificates or documents referred to above, or these are deficient in such a way that the customs officer cannot allow the import of the animal on the basis of these, a border inspection veterinarian called at the cost of the importer may allow the animal to be imported, subject to conditions set by the border inspection veterinarian.

Vaccinations are recommended for:

1. Leptospirosis – preventative vaccination, and antibiotics for treatment
2. Parvovirus – first at the age of three months and again at four months, then at one year, and re-vaccinated every 1-2 years
3. Distemper (hardpad) disease – first at the age of three months and again at four months, and re-vaccinated at one year and again every two years
4. Rabies – first at the age of four months and then at one year of age, and re-vaccinated every two years
5. Infectious canine hepatitis – first at the age of four months and again at 4 months, re-vaccination at one year and every two years afterward. All vaccines against distemper in Finland also contain a vaccine against infectious canine hepatitis
6. Feline panleucopenia – first at the age of three months and again at the age of one year, and re-vaccination every two years